



## Development Hot Topics

**F**or too long the impression was that nothing is happening in Fremantle, but how it has changed. Proposed building development plans of nearly one billion dollars will see Freo grow and the inner city revitalised with more residential, office and retail space.

In Queen Victoria Street, several residential projects are already under way, while the former Energy Museum will also be developed. The Point Street car park site

redevelopment is due to start late 2014 and a concept plan for a hotel on the south western corner of the Westgate Mall has been created.

The Kings Square development is also due to start late 2014 and the interim MYRE retail project in the old MYER buildings is very Freo.

In Bannister Street, the Fremantle Club hotel is growing fast, as is another development opposite, while a new short-term accommodation building is also on the cards for Pakenham Street, near Pioneer Park.

The corner of Henry and High Streets, diagonally opposite from the Orient Hotel should also become a short-term tourism accommodation, and in Cliff Street, the Mediterranean Shipping Company will be building a stunning modern building on the ugly carport site.

Another hotel will be opening at Mews Road, and the old Synagogue site is also being developed for short-term accommodation, as might the Warders

Cottages. So Fremantle is finally starting to cater for tourist accommodation and that is much needed to keep the visitors in town and boost the retail and hospitality economy.

Cantonment Hill will also get a huge facelift, while Arthur Head has been turned into the Bathers Beach Art Precinct with several new studios and galleries opening.

The stunning new Bread in Common restaurant in

Pakenham Street has been a drawcard from day one and the Fishermen's Co-op building at Bathers Beach will open next year after substantial refurbishment by the owners of Cicerellos.

Work on the very controversial skate park on the Esplanade also started late October.

Top that all off with

the big 350 million dollar development of Victoria Quay and one can see optimism and confidence returning to our city.

The above is not a complete list of present and future development plans for our city, as there is also substantial residential development at Knutsford Street and Vale Street, outside the CBD.

Hopefully State Government will accept the alternative boundaries the City of Fremantle proposed for Fremantle to amalgamate with East Fremantle and parts of Melville and Cockburn. If that happens, Fremantle will have a bright future.

*Roel Loopers - Story & Pic*



# Visions of Fremantle's Future

The City has set up a community development process around a visioning exercise and has engaged the services of consultant and former Mayor of the City of South Perth, James Best, to manage and facilitate the process. The Fremantle 2029 Visioning was launched to a standing room only audience at Victoria Hall on May 16 with the first workshop session on June 27 at the Esplanade. The sessions have continued in various locations and with varying levels of attendance since the launch but for the present we are advised that they have been suspended while the local government amalgamations process is considered by the State government.



The motives of the City in seeking to promote community involvement and participative energy have been well rewarded with the hordes of people getting very passionate about what a special, funky, weird and great place Fremantle is to live, work and play in. These views have been almost universally expressed, especially and noticeably amongst the young people attending – from senior high school students, through to undergraduate university students. Quite amazing and inspiring to see and even feel the passion and energy about the place at these gatherings when they get fired up. Okay, they are an expensive ratepayer funded love-in I know, but they are good for the soul and for the future of our community, I am sure.

Story: Henty Farrar - Pics: Roel Loopers



## PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDING OF FREMANTLE'S HISTORY

One of the ideas that came up at a Fremantle 2029 visioning workshop was to create an internet cloud photo library for Fremantle where people can upload their photos of our city, so they will become an historic photographic documentation of our city. One of the main concerns is that while there are millions more photos taken than ever before, not many are stored and captioned properly, and kept for posterity, and that is a serious problem.

I have noticed a lack of understanding on how important it is to have professional photos taken of events, streetscapes, buildings, public art, people, cafes, graffiti, etc. as more and more amateurs are now doing the jobs professional photographers used to do, as is the case for example at Fremantle Ports. The assumption that because one can get good photos with most digital cameras, there is no longer need to get it done professionally is wrong and short-sighted. Recording history should not be left to amateurs just because it saves money. Government departments and companies have a social responsibility to record our present, so future generations can see how we lived, and what we, our houses, cars,

parks, beaches and streets looked like.

Graffiti is a fleeting and often short-lasting art form, and fashion is ever changing, so it is essential to keep photographic records of it. Librarians are not the people who should take those photos, and neither are people in PR departments of government agencies. The professional recording of history needs to be done by professional photographers who know their craft and who know that manipulating photos distorts history.

We all love looking at old photos because they connect us with the past and people like former Society president and Fremantle councillor John Dowson creates great books out of them. That will become far more problematic in the future when a lack of really good quality professional photos will become evident.

Having said that, I believe there is a place for a 'cloud library' as well, as amateur snap shots also do have value and can be very endearing and informative. Freo Cloud sounds pretty good for a photo library.

Roel Loopers



To read the QR Code, download a QRCode Reader App for your smartphone from the App Store, scan and read!

# Freopedia Project Update

The FREOPEDIA QR code project, started by the Fremantle Society in collaboration with WIKIPEDIA and the Business Improvement District, was launched by Mayor Brad Pettitt during this year's Heritage Festival. After a short production delay, the first series of the small, high quality plaques have been attached to buildings and statues around the city. Many more are to follow once permission has been obtained from private owners to install them.

Currently our main challenge is to get people to research the stories of buildings and sites or utilise digital information available at the Fremantle City Library's local history collection, and produce short articles to be uploaded on Wikimedia. Once that is done we can start producing more plaques, so over time the city's history can be read on all significant sites via the use of smartphones.

Fremantle is the first Wikitown in Australia and the Southern Hemisphere and the project is a great tourism feature. It is also hoped that educational institutions will take advantage of the growing virtual tour facilities.

Fremantle Ports has agreed to include the Freopedia

codes in their new Victoria Quay signage and we have installed plaques at Monument Hill, to the delight of the local RSL. You will also find them at the Town Hall, Moores Building, Bathers Beach, Round House and other places around town.

Society member and Wikimedia expert Gideon Digby has done two walking tours to introduce people to Freopedia and he will hold workshops, through the Meeting Place, to show people how to upload articles on Wiki.

We will be trying to get funding for a 'Freopian in Residence', so we can pay someone to do the research and upload articles. We also hope

Notre Dame University history students will embrace the project. If you know someone who wants to sponsor the project for \$5000 – \$10,000, to achieve the next stage, please let us know.

Without the wonderful work of our members, Gideon Digby and Sam Wilson, Freopedia would not have happened, and on behalf of the Society, I thank them very much. I am confident the project will see the Society win a heritage award in 2014.

If you are interested in being part of the project please email me on [roel.loopers@iinet.net.au](mailto:roel.loopers@iinet.net.au)

Roel Loopers - Story & Pic



## NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

WE ARE TRYING TO SAVE COSTS AND TREES BY EMAILING NEWSLETTERS TO OUR MEMBERS, SO IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, PLEASE DO SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, SO WE CAN KEEP YOU UP TO DATE ABOUT SOCIETY EVENTS VIA THE INTERNET.



# AMALGAMATIONS

The visions for Fremantle 2029 is one thing but the shame of it is, the State Government's so called "reform" of local government is working very hard to subsume Fremantle's specialness, into Melville's suburban generalness.

The following are excerpts from the Society's presentation to the Local Government Advisory Board:

*The Fremantle Society, like the Mount Lawley Society, is a community group. At the offer/suggestion of Minister Simpson, the Fremantle Society makes this submission...*

*The Fremantle Society is very concerned that the proposed merger ...will have a very negative impact on Fremantle and the communities that make up this unique city location.*

*The Society urges the Board to recommend boundary change that strengthens the integrity of Fremantle, builds its economy and enhances its unique character.*

*The Fremantle Society recognises the social and cultural values of a community are strengthened by its cultural and built heritage and by the community's involvement in its protection.*

*The tangible and intangible benefits of an activated and engaged community are a more inclusive and protective society generally, which in turn engenders an enormous range of social benefits. The greater Fremantle area (inclusive of North Fremantle and East Fremantle) has such a community.*

*A community with engaged individuals is the most valuable thing any local area can have or aspire to create. Our members from across the Fremantle area have, throughout the Society's 40 years, been committed and engaged with the East Fremantle and Fremantle local governments as candidates for election, elected members, as active*

*participants in community reference groups, Fremantle and East Fremantle Council's working groups and advisory committees as well as social and sporting clubs and community associations around the City and the Town.*



*The right to speak and take part and determine local affairs is vital to the maintenance of local community and the right to the management of local affairs is vital to the strength and vitality of that local community.*

*The "growth serum" for the maintenance and growth of a local community is participation in local affairs and identifying and belonging to "place".*

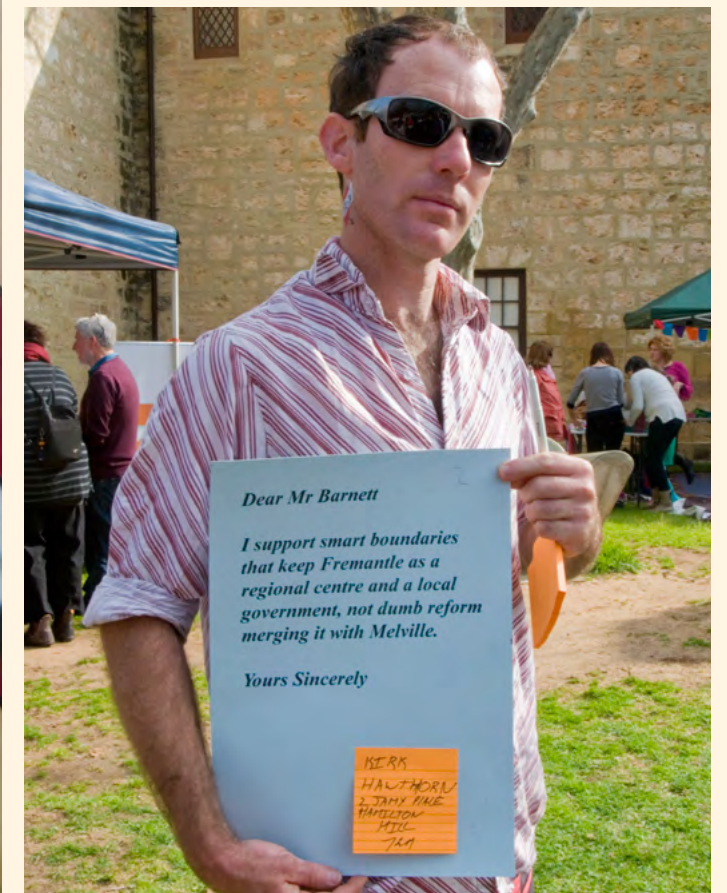
*Fremantle is a location and a brand and an identifiable place. It is a city in the complexities it embraces and the diversity it spans. Fremantle is a place with two WAFL football teams and an AFL football team. Fremantle is a place where 50,00 fans gathered for the 2013 Grand Final. Fremantle is Western Australia's port city and is internationally recognisable.*

*Fremantle can be made larger but it must be retained as an individual municipality. A larger independent City of Fremantle will have widespread elector support.*

Story: Henty Farrar - Pics: Peter Zuvela, Roel Loopers.



The "growth





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**A**fter a year and a half as President and an absolute monster year of volunteering, my friend Roel Loopers stepped down from the position as President to refocus and concentrate on his future directions. The Committee rearranged itself with me being elected by the Committee to fill the casual vacancy and Cathy Hall stepping up and being elected as Vice President to replace yours truly.

We moved out of our "home" of more than two years at Captain's Lane and into a meeting place at Victoria Hall. Business for me began immediately with the City's launch of the 2029 visioning forum, held at Victoria Hall, with a full house and standing room only. The City has to be commended for creating the vehicle for a community conversation about what we have here in Fremantle and where we want to go in the years ahead, leading to 2029 – one hundred years as a city. Whether we will make it to that point, as a city, was not exactly top of mind when it all began back in June, but since then, apart from the Grand Final, that question has really been the only game in town.

The big project that Roel had conceived of, and lobbied successfully for a significant grant, was the Freopedia project, launched by the Mayor, with much congratulations and excitement, during the Heritage Festival. After initial problems with the quality of the plaques, the printers improved the product and the project progressed with a very professional end result. Roel's report in this edition details the extent of the achievement to date.

After the front-page story with Melissa Parke MP announcing the Federal grant of \$350K to the restoration of indigenous art at the Prison, the Society's Fremantle Heritage Festival was a success, in collaboration to some extent with the Fremantle History Society. This year our focus was on the Amazing Place Race, the Four Courts Tour, the Club Crawl and Freopedia Launch. We acknowledge the generous support of our major sponsor; the Fremantle Business Improvement District, and also sponsors of the Amazing Place Race; Glen Cowan Gallery, Moore and Moore Cafe and Frank's Gourmet Meats. After producing such a magnificent Festival program it was a crying shame that the City's home letterbox delivery failed so miserably to get the message out to us at home.

The Society's regular monthly meetings with the Mayor have continued now for several years and have been attended by our very dedicated and tuned in June Hutchison, generally Roel, as President, and Don Whittington (before he stepped down from the Committee). This access has afforded the Society a great opportunity to develop a broad relationship with the Mayor and to some extent with the City administration. Hopefully this arrangement will continue post the upcoming Mayoral election, as it is important to maintain a relationship with our local

government. On the subject of relationships with local government, the Society is also engaged in assisting the East Fremantle Council, with our members participating as part of the Town's Planning Advisory Panel.

The last few months has seen great support from members and supporters and the reforming of the Society's Planning and Heritage sub-committee. The group has been considering local identity planning ideas and contributed to submissions to Council on various planning proposals.

The Society has been at the forefront of the campaign to stop forced local government amalgamations and protect the community's right to have its say in determining local government act boundaries. The Society was on the front foot when we launched our 'Sock it Colin' campaign and followed up with advertisements, a Facebook page, press

releases, radio interviews, on-line petitions and the morphing into the successor campaign; Fremantle Forever, backed by the Society and the City. Society volunteers have been running very hard with this one; assisting with the September 1 Arts Centre concert (attended by over 1000 Fremantle supporters); facilitating electors letters to the Premier; and follow ups with newspaper advertising, radio interviews and an extensive petition across the City. We have also submitted letters to the Premier and all members of the Legislative Council and, at the invitation of Minister for Local Government, made a submission to the Local Government Advisory Board.

The Society has also continued to foster community engagement across wider Federal and State issues through funding and advertising support for the Federal Election electors forum and the recent Mayoral candidates forum, which unfortunately left us all guessing about what sort of man candidate Hanssen might be. At that point Mr Hanssen was not willing to present himself to his electors... By the time you read these lines the Local Government elections will be a recent memory and the campaign memorable by its underwhelmingness. Mayor Brad Pettitt has been good for Fremantle and was re-elected, receiving over 70 per cent of the votes. In the Wards there were good candidates, but all sitting members were re-elected, but for City Ward where councillor Tim Grey-Smith retired. His seat was won by Moore&Moore café owner Simon Naber, who will be the only new member on council. Hopefully the new Council will move forward with the development and renewal agenda, with renewed energy that encourages the private sector to invest in Fremantle and ensure its economic future. The Society will continue to work towards achieving the most appropriate developments generally but especially for our heritage places.

Henty Farrar



## Collecting Fremantle's History

**T**he local history collection provides information about the history of the local government areas of Fremantle and East Fremantle, the collection has developed from a single filing cabinet in the early 1970s to the extensive collection which you can visit today. All material is available for use in the library, but cannot be borrowed. Staff also provides an extensive research service to assist your research and field queries from country areas, interstate and overseas.

Materials available for historical research include photographs in print and digital formats, there is a collection over nearly 6000 print photographs and most of these are available online through the City's website at [http://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/library/Local\\_history\\_collection](http://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/library/Local_history_collection)

There is also an extensive collection of files covering all aspects of Fremantle's history with the main emphasis of this collection relating to property and biographical information. It should be noted that the property survey undertaken by the Fremantle Society in the 1970s has provided valuable information to many of these property files. If you are interested in researching your house history the rate books are available for the City of Fremantle from 1880, just call in to the library and we will show you how to conduct your research. You can find out when the property was built and also previous owners of the property.

There is a large collection newspapers on microfilm and The Herald 1867-1886 has now been made available on Trove through the National Library's online historical newspaper database at

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/386>

There is also a large collection of maps dating from 1833 as well as oral history interviews which have been collected since the mid 1970s. Besides these specialist materials there is also a large range of books covering numerous subjects including Council reports, histories of sporting groups, buildings, heritage information, in fact any aspect of Fremantle or East Fremantle that you may be interested in.

### Family history

You can access and search the extensive databases of Ancestry (ancestry.com.au) at the local history collection, as well as on the internet using computers throughout the library, and start tracing your family tree.

### Local history and you

If you have any local history items of interest you would like to donate or loan — photographs, books, memorabilia, art works, papers of local societies and organisations — we would like to hear from you. Contact the Fremantle City Library local history librarians on (08) 9432 9739 or email

[lhc@fremantle.wa.gov.au](mailto:lhc@fremantle.wa.gov.au)

Pam Hartree

Pic: Fremantle City Library: Local History Collection, Print No. 1796 Teachers and Pupils on Cantonment Hill





# INNOVATIVE MYRE RETAIL CONCEPT AT KINGS SQUARE

The former Myer building at Kings Square is now home to an innovative new Spacemarket group project named MYRE. It is not a pop-up shop or market, but promoted as an incubator for new businesses to get retail experience. It offers a creative and vibrant energy with designers, furniture makers, a hairdresser, florist, café, art gallery and more. There are a wide variety of great gifts and the ambiance is cool and relaxing. This is all on ground level, while on the first floor workshops have started for all kinds of creative and enterprising people. In the near future, the top level will become a bar and music venue with food stalls, so go and have a look and support the local creatives.

Rents are considerably lower than one would normally have to pay in the Fremantle CBD but that is because the project is subsidised by building owners Sirona Capital and Fremantle City. The City invested \$25,000 in the project.

MYRE is a result of a delay in renovating the building by Sirona Capital, who are hoping the Department of

Housing will move in. Instead of leaving the building vacant, Sirona, in collaboration with Spacemarket and the City of Fremantle, came up with the Myre idea as an interim use for the space.

It is essential for the revitalisation of Fremantle that the Kings Square project happens as soon as possible, so hopefully the Department of Housing will announce in December that their preferred location in Fremantle will be the Myer building.

The architecture design competition for Kings Square has attracted over forty entries from architects from all over Australia. An expert panel will now have to shortlist four of them, who will then be asked to draw up detailed plans for the area. By December this year the City of Fremantle will announce the winner and I believe the design ideas will then go through a public consultation process to find out what the community thinks about them.

*Story and Pics - Roel Loopers*

